

Where Our Food Comes From

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Goal (learning objective)

Youth will learn where their food comes from.

Supplies

- Room that has enough space for your members to move around in small groups
- Paper and pencils (enough for group)
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils (enough for group)
- Copies of the following handouts
 - Handout 1 - "US Map" (make enough copies for group)
 - Handout 2 - "Food Production Chain (make enough copies for group)
 - Handouts 3 -7 - "Animal Inventories" make 1 copy for your reference/leader packet

Pre-lesson preparation

- Obtain a copy of the Ohio resource handbook for the species you lead (see resources below)
- Read/review handouts
- Read/review tips with dealing with the general public and the media
 - Beef Resource Handbook page 14-1
 - Swine Resource Handbook page 23-1
 - Sheep Resource Handbook page 100
 - Goat Resource Handbook page 153-154
- Make copies of the handouts

Lesson directions and outline

Share the following information with the youth:

Whether you raise livestock or not, understanding where our food comes from is important to understanding the industry and how it is crucial to feeding the world. Most of the products we use every day come from agriculture. A big part of this is the livestock industry.

Where our food comes from is also based on areas where the climate is ideal, there is necessary space, and necessary resources for those animals. Census maps for each production species show where they are more highly concentrated.

Understanding where our food comes from how it is raised can help us become better advocates for the agricultural industry. Tip sheets in the resources section are available on ways to practice public relations.

Conducting the activity (DO)

Activity 1

1. Distribute and review Handout 2 with the group.
2. Have members pick a food item, work your way back through the Food Production Chain to determine how it came to be on your table.
3. Review with group tips on dealing with the general public and media. Review basic messages to communicate with everyone about your animals and the agricultural industry.
4. Have members divide into 3 small groups. Have them practice talking about how their animals are raised and how they move through the food production chain to feed the population. After each member has presented have each person in the group ask a question as if they were interested, concerned citizen, activist, or protester.

Activity 2

1. List or use different colors for each species to color in the blank US map where the top 10 states for production of each species are located. (Refer to Handouts 3-7).
2. Further activity make arrangements to do a tour of a farm with a local producer.

What did we learn? (REFLECT)

- Ask: How did you feel when someone questioned how you raised your animals or the industry you're in?
- Ask: What are some effective tips that you can use when being questioned?

Why is that important? (APPLY)

- Ask: Why is it important to know where our food comes from and how it gets to our plate?
- Ask: Why is it important to understand how our food choices can provide us with a healthy life-style?

Resources

Centers for Disease control and Prevention. (2015). The Food Production Chain - How Food Gets Contaminated. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/outbreaks/investigating-outbreaks/production-chain.html>

Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Public Relations. *Beef resource handbook* (page 14-1).

Ohio State University Extension. (2008). Manure Management and Environmental Quality. *Goat resource handbook* (pages 153-154).

Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Showing and Selling. *Sheep resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (page 100).

Ohio State University Extension. (2000). Dealing with the General Public and the Media. *Swine resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (page 23-1).

United States Department of Agriculture. (2014). 2012 Census Ag Atlas Maps. *Livestock and Animals*. Available at: https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Atlas_Maps/Livestock_and_Animals/

ADVOCACY: WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM - HANDOUT 1













